

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes – Draft
Boscawen Municipal Complex
July 12, 2018 7:00 pm

1 Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Bill Bevans, Josh Marshall, John Porter, Tina Larochele
2 Members Absent: Rusty Colby
3 Others Present: Alan Hardy-Co-Administrator, Linda Chandonnet – Recording Secretary
4 Guest: Julie Fournier

5 Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

6 Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

7 **Review and Acceptance of prior meeting’s minutes:**

8 Chair Keegan asked if anyone had any changes to the previous minutes from 06/14/2018. The
9 following changes were made: Line 65 & 66– Change the motion to Mr. Bevans and seconded by
10 Mr. Marshall.

11 **Motion made to accept the June minutes by Mr. Bevans and seconded by Mr. Marshall as**
12 **amended. All in favor, none opposed.**

13 Accountant Report was reviewed by the board with no comments.

14 **Motion made to accept the Accountant Report by Ms. Larochele and seconded by Mr.**
15 **Bevans. All in favor, none opposed.**

16 **Land Use Happenings:**

17 Chair Keegan spoke concerning Tax Incentive Issues and NH Senator Watters whom he is still
18 waiting to hear from. In the meantime Chair Keegan has looked at Senator Watters website and
19 saw he was a sponsor of the bill last year to appropriate the 3 million dollars to the dairy farmers.
20 There has also been an interview with him in the NH Business Review that indicated he has been
21 focused on environment issues, water quality and things of that nature, especially related to the
22 Seacoast.

23 Mr. Porter stated he thinks, as do others, we are right on target with this issue. He has talked to
24 people about this and they think it makes sense. Chair Keegan agreed and said we need to keep
25 pursuing it. Mr. Marshall noted he took a tour of dairy farms with Commissioner Jasper. Farmers
26 across the state are facing the issue of how to get some tax relief or other help. He mentioned some
27 states are helping dairy farmers. He fears that if New Hampshire does not do something soon or
28 lags behind in agriculture or forest industries support that we will see a reduction of agriculture.
29 Hopefully, we can not only help Boscawen but the entire state.

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34 **Other Business:**

35

36 Chair Keegan asked Mr. Hardy to give an update on Boscawen Conservation Commission (BCC)
37 projects.

38 • Mr. Hardy reported the BBC has completed part of the town forest project and are planning
39 additional timber harvests and infrastructure upgrades.

40

41 • Mr. Hardy stated there are two new projects. One is the intent to acquire a 25 acre parcel
42 of land between Tina Larochelle’s Farm and Walker Pond from the Water Precinct. It goes
43 up all the way to Fred Tauber’s land and includes the 2 Boscawen accesses to Walker Pond.
44 This would permanently preserve that land once in the BCC hands and limit future use. For
45 example, public access to the pond and improved picnic area. Since the BCC it is a town
46 organization the selectmen could have public works improve access to the pond without
47 putting the Class 6 Roads status at risk. The BCC is in negotiating with the Precinct.

48

49 • A property owner on Long Street and Water Street has approached the BCC about an
50 agriculture preservation easement. The value of the easement is being established. This is
51 a beautiful parcel to preserve because it is among some of the best agriculture land in
52 Boscawen. It is anticipated other parties will need to help with the fund raising because the
53 BCC’s available funds will not be enough to cover the costs. If successful, a land corridor
54 from Walker Pond along the west side of Water and Long Streets will largely be protected
55 open space.

56

57 Chair Keegan stated that at some point the Agricultural Commission is going to become involved
58 in the easement process. He also said that Monday morning, July 16th, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Gilmore
59 and he were going to meet to talk in more detail about the BCC’s plans and how best the
60 Agriculture Commission could assist the BCC.

61

62 Chair Keegan said the other agenda item is related to the Ken Marshall Memorial. Chair Keegan
63 would like to propose that each year for Old Home Week the Agricultural and Conservation
64 Commissions identify a volunteer or someone actively involved in Agriculture/Conservation who
65 has made an outstanding contribution to the community. Recognitions would be during the awards
66 ceremony on Tuesday.

67

68 Mr. Hardy added that these two organizations will be coming together for projects in the town
69 forest. For example, they will look at restoring fields. The BCC has two more timber harvests
70 planned to do to improve the forest quality and health. Charlie Neibling is the project forester.

71

72 **Other Business:**

73 Chair Keegan asked for an update about the Ken Marshall Memorial:

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74 Mr. Josh Marshall mentioned that a few Commission Members went to the community garden and
75 thought the most appropriate recognition would be a large rock placed at the garden entrance with
76 words sandblasted into it reading ‘Ken Marshall Memorial Garden’.

77

78 The Community Garden Update:

79 Roger Sanborn has the mowed and rototilled the fallow space at the Community Garden. Mr. Jeff
80 Abbe has sown buckwheat. So, not only does the garden look great, but 50 of the 60 plots are being
81 used.

82

83 Ms. Chandonnet stated the (IPM) Integrated Pest Management at the Community Garden with
84 Ann LaCroix will be held on Monday, January 16th and it looks like there are about 8 people that
85 will be attending.

86

87 Chair Keegan mentioned that everyone had copies of the Annual Reports for the Agriculture
88 Commission from 2011 through 2017. Chair Keegan wanted not only to have all Commissioners
89 know our history but to provide background for Senator Watters prior to their meeting with him.
90 We want him to know that we have been at this for a while; are serious about what we are doing;
91 and, that he will have a factual base on which to base proposals.

92

93 **New Business:**

94 Mr. Porter said Mark & Kim Collins from Boscawen are still trying to get their barn easement
95 completed. He knows the issue is with the garage doors which makes that building look like a 2
96 car garage. Mr. Porter has asked around with barn contractors and has seen what other people have
97 done to create a barn door affect. The building is old and there is a bump or rise on their uneven
98 driveway so it’s not easy to open doors. Mr. Hardy said they are welcome to come in to talk to the
99 selectmen about how we can help them. Discussion ensued.

100

101 **Action Plan:**

102 Mr. Hardy will find out where the process is with the Collins, then he will send an email to
103 everyone with the information. Based on the information Commissioners can decide how to
104 proceed.

105

106 Mr. Keegan brought up the subject of farmers moving equipment and getting stopped by police. It
107 was discussed that most likely would not happen in Boscawen, but inviting the police department
108 to a future meeting about the issues and MV RSA AG Vehicle Use. Discussion Ensued.

109

110 Mr. Hardy asked Julie Fournier if she was interested in becoming a member of the Agriculture
111 Commission and the process to become one. Agriculture Commission will make recommendations
112 to the Board of Selectmen.

113

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114 The next meeting of the AG Commission will be held on Thursday, August 9, 2018.

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116 **Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Bevans and seconded by Mr. Marshall. All in favor, none**
117 **opposed.**

118

119 The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

120

121 *Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Chandonnet*

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123

124

DRAFT